AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A system for locating references related to a target mark, actual or potential, in one or more accessible information storage systems, the locating system comprising: (a) a data store comprising one or more storage elements; (b) one or more processors in communication with each other [[an]] and the data store, the one or more processors for: (i) receiving the target mark comprising one or more mark terms; (ii) creating a search phrase by: (1) initializing the search phrase to include the mark terms; (2) identifying variations for any of the mark terms, wherein the identified variations are of a type selected from the group consisting of homonyms, translations and common misspellings; and (3) if any variations were identified, adding the identified variations to the initialized search phrase; (iii) generating a search result set by: (1) conducting one or more searches in one or more accessible information storage systems based upon the created search phrase; and (2) accumulating results from each of the conducted searches in the search result set; (iv) storing the search result set in the data store; (v) prioritizing the elements of the search result set; (vi) generating a report based upon the search result set; and (vii) transmitting the report to an output device.

2. (original) The locating system of claim 1, wherein the one or more storage elements comprises at least one storage element that stores data on removable media.

3. (currently amended) A system for locating references related to a target claim, from a patent or proposed for a patent application, in one or more accessible information storage systems, the locating system comprising: (a) a data store comprising one or more storage elements; (b) one or more processors in communication with each other [[an]] and the data store, the one or more processors for: (i) receiving one or more phrases, wherein each received phrase represents a limitation of the target claim and comprises one or more terms; (ii) for each received

phrase, creating an expanded search phrase by: (1) initializing the expanded search phrase to include the terms of respective received phrase; (2) identifying synonyms for any term within the respective received phrase; and (3) if any synonyms were identified, adding the identified synonyms to the initialized expanded search phrase; (iii) generating a search result set by: (1) for each expanded search phases, conducting one or more searches in one or more accessible information storage systems based upon the respective expanded search phrase; (2) accumulating results from each of the conducted searches in the search result set; (iv) storing the search result set in the data store; (v) prioritizing the elements of the search result set; (vi) generating a report based upon the search result set; and (vii) transmitting the report to an output device.

4. (original) The locating system of claim 3, wherein the one or more storage elements comprises at least one storage element that stores data on removable media.

5. (original) A method for locating references related to a target intellectual property item, actual or proposed, in one or more accessible information storage systems, the method comprising: (a) receiving one or more search phrases associated with the target item, wherein each received search phrase comprises one or more search terms; (b) for each received phrase, creating an expanded search phrase by: (i) initializing the expanded search phrase to include the search terms of respective received search phrase; (ii) identifying variations for any search term within the respective received phrase; and (iii) if any variations were identified, adding the identified variations to the initialized expanded search phrase; (c) generating a search result set by: (i) for each expanded search phases, conducting one or more searches in one or more accessible information storage systems based upon the respective expanded search phrase; (ii) accumulating results from each of the conducted searches in the search result set; (d) generating a report based upon the search result set; and (e) transmitting the report to an output device.

6. (original) The method of claim 5, wherein the receiving step comprises the steps of: (i) receiving a document selected from the group consisting of a patent, a patent application, a trademark registration and a trademark registration application; and (ii) extracting the one or more search phrases from the received document.

7. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein the receiving step further comprises the steps of (iii) receiving a reference to the document and (iv) transmitting a request for the document to an information storage system based upon the received reference.

8. (original) The method of claim 1, and further comprising the step of storing the search result set in a data store.

9. (original) The method of claim 1, and further comprising the step of storing the generated report in a data store.

10. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the generated report comprises one or more fields that upon receipt by the output device allow a user to edit contents of the one or more fields and further comprising the steps of (f) receiving one or more modifications to the report corresponding to input by the user into the one or more fields and (g) modifying the report or the search results set based upon the received one or more modifications.

11. (currently amended) The method of claim 10, and further comprising the step of repeating ~~steps (d) through (g)~~ generating a report based upon the search result set.

12. (original) The method of claim 1, and further comprising the step of prioritizing the search result set.

13. (original) The method of claim 12, wherein the target item is a mark, further comprising the step of accessing one or more descriptions of goods or services associated with the mark, and wherein the prioritizing step comprises the steps of: (i) calculating a correspondence value between each element of the search result set and each of the one or more descriptions; and (ii) sorting the elements of the search result set based upon the calculated correspondence values.

14. (original) The method of claim 12, wherein the target item is a claim, further comprising the step of accessing a technical description of an invention corresponding to the claim, and wherein the prioritizing step comprises the steps of: (i) calculating a correspondence value between each element of the search result set and the technical description; and (ii) sorting the elements of the search result set based upon the calculated correspondence values.

15. (original) The method of claim 12, wherein the prioritizing step comprises the steps of: (i) calculating a frequency count associated with each element of the search result set; and (ii) sorting the elements of the search result set based upon the calculated frequency count.

16. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein the target item is a mark and wherein the frequency count calculating step comprises counting occurrences of any expanded search phrase within each element of the search result set.

17. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein the target item is a claim and wherein the frequency count calculating step comprises counting occurrences of different expanded search phrases within each element of the search result set.

18. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the target item is a claim and wherein the receiving step comprises receiving a single search phrase comprising the mark.

19. (original) The method of claim 18, wherein the step of identifying variations comprises identifying variations of one or more types selected from the group consisting of homonyms, translations and common misspellings.

20. (original) The method of claim 18, and further comprising the step of attempting to create additional expanded search phrases by selectively parsing and regrouping the one or more search terms of the received single search phrase.

21. (original) The method of claim 18, wherein the generated report is selected from the group consisting of a draft registerability analysis, a draft infringement analysis, a draft office action and a table of results.

22. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the target item is a claim and wherein the receiving step comprises receiving a search phrase corresponding to each limitation of the claim.

23. (currently amended) The method of claim [[23]] 22, the step of identifying variations comprises identifying synonyms.

24. (original) The method of claim 23, wherein the generated report is selected from the group consisting of a table of results, a draft patentability analysis, a draft

infringement analysis, a draft invalidity analysis, a draft office action, a draft search report and a draft written opinion.

25. (original) The method of claim 23, and further comprising the step of identifying any elements of the search result set that include at least one occurrence of each expanded search phrase.

26. (original) The method of claim 23, and further comprising the step of identifying pluralities of elements of the search result set that, in combination, include at least one occurrence of each expanded search phrase.

27. (original) A system for locating references within one or more data sets, wherein each data set comprises a potential intellectual property reference, the one or more data sets accessible on a network, the system comprising: (a) one or more processors in selective communication with the network; (b) an intellectual property search engine resident on the one or more processors, the intellectual property search engine: (i) selectively receiving one or more search terms; (ii) expanding the one or more search terms to create a search data set; (iii) performing one or more searches of at least one potential intellectual property reference data set via the network; (iv) comparing the search data set to the potential intellectual property reference data set; (v) returning potential intellectual property reference data sets based upon the comparison between the search data set and the potential intellectual property reference data set.

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 2C and 2D. The replacement sheet for Figs. 2C and 2D replaces the original sheet. Several errors in the drawings have been corrected.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes